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From: Faith Tuipulotu [auli@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 8:33 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Subject: Support of HB 2876

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chairman Representative Faye Hanohano and Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. My name is Faith Tuipulotu and I am a homestead yam farmer on Molokai. I support HB 2876 because this allows anyone who is farming to be able to secure financial support from institutions knowing you have farm long term leases. Banks will not give loans to people on homestead lands because eviction is possible and USDA will not support any programs with out a lease of at least 7 years.

With a long term lease a person can receive cost sharing for pipes, windbreaks, clearing of brush, wildlife game control (axis deer) that has been damaging crops, through USDA. I think that the long term lease will benefit Hawaiian Homes knowing that they also have a committment by the farmer to farm these lands.

Farmers will than take the intiative to invest in improvements to the land as well as practicing good conservation measures.

For those reasons I support HB 2876. Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Aloha,
Faith Tuipulotu

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